

Food Banks, COVID-19, and SB 1383

Presentation for the Little Hoover Commission

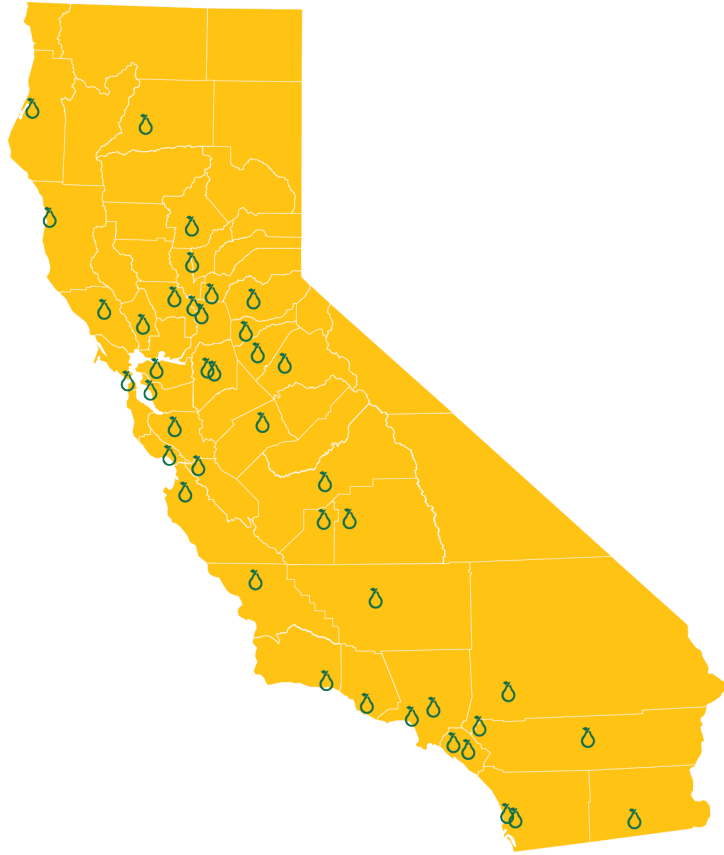
Becky Silva
Director of Government Relations
becky@cafoodbanks.org

What does CAFB do?



CAFB is a membership organization of 41 food banks from throughout the state with a shared mission to end hunger in California and a firm commitment to providing cutting-edge leadership in the anti-hunger community.

- Farm to Family
- CalFresh outreach
- State and Federal advocacy
- Member services



41 FOOD BANKS

Serving *a//*counties

<http://www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food-bank>

Are Food Banks the Same as Food Pantries?



Food Banks (41)

= typically big warehouses, don't distribute to people directly, gives food to food pantries.



Food Pantries (5,569)

= at community based sites, typically once a week/month, serves people directly.

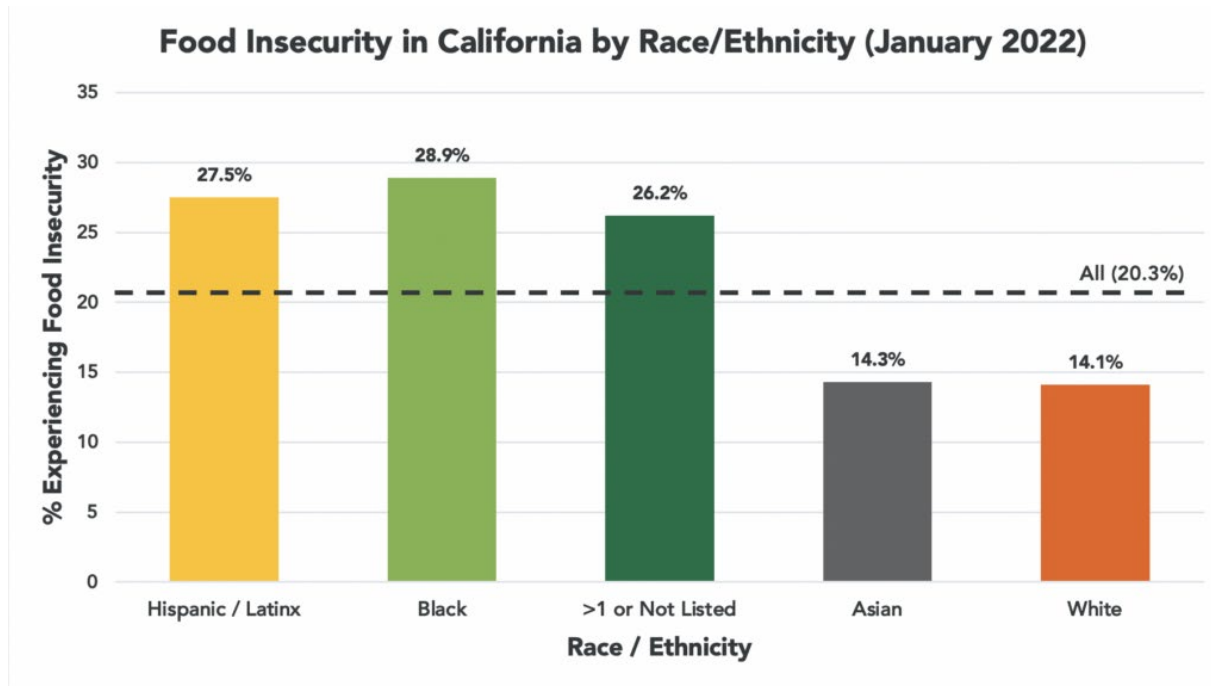
Impact of COVID-19 on Hunger in California



- 4.9 million people on CalFresh as of June 2022, compared to 3.8 million in June 2019
- 40% of kids experienced food insecurity at the height of the stay at home order (*national stat*)
- Food insecurity in California increased from 10% to nearly 25% - that's 10 million people



Hunger in California



Source: Household Pulse Survey analysis by Diane Schanzenbach, Northwestern University

Increasing Demand at Food Banks



RIGHT NOW

California's food banks are serving

MORE THAN
1.5X
PRE-PANDEMIC
DEMAND



*Data from CAFB member food banks



Rising Cost of Food



Stories from Food Banks



Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services: *“People are on that razor’s edge right now, and the cost of gas is eating into their food budgets.” They also highlighted that the price they are paying per dozen eggs has more than doubled in recent months, from \$0.93 to \$2.20, and they’ve seen a 40% increase in people served in the last month. (Los Angeles Times, 4/20/2022)*

Alameda County Community Food Bank: *“Their grocery money isn’t going as far as it used to. Gas prices are high. Many people who come here either depend on us or use it to supplement their meals,” said program coordinator Glenn Hilado as he walked the car line checking in with people before the drive-through opened. That Wednesday ended up being the distribution site’s busiest in a year-and-a-half, Altfest said. It was also the day the food bank distributed eggs, a popular item. The nonprofit food bank now estimates one in four Alameda County residents to be food insecure, compared to one in five before the pandemic. (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/26/2022)*

Opportunities with SB 1383



Food Banks always need food.

SB 1383 is an opportunity to strengthen and form new partnerships to increase food donations.

Partnering with Food Banks on SB 1383



How can jurisdictions support food banks?

- Reach out to your local food bank!
- Engage them in capacity planning!
- Food banks need food AND funding!

Keep in mind...

- Some counties have two food banks
- Some food banks may be working with multiple jurisdictions



Implications for SB 1383 Implementation



This has been a hard few years for food banks.

Food banks need ongoing resources in order to coordinate, store, and distribute more food.



What Food Banks are Saying



Feeding San Diego: *"Capacity constraints at the point of delivery limit how much we can get into distribution. Working to increase capacity in storage, refrigeration, food rescue vehicles and people to remove constraints. Food quantity is not the issue. It's the logistics of getting the food into the end points of the distribution locations."*



What Food Banks are Saying



Second Harvest of Silicon Valley: *"We are excited about the opportunity to get even more variety into the hands of our community," said Tracy Weatherby, Second Harvest's vice president of strategy and advocacy. "But it does require a lot of coordination and logistics and funding." (The Mercury News, 8/23/2022)*

What Food Banks are Saying



Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano: *Karen Collins, food resource manager of Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, said her organization was concerned about the uncertainty of future food volume and more food quality challenges. "It's our job to look for more food, but we have to ... ensure we don't become a dumping ground," Collins said. (The Mercury News, 8/23/2022)*



Food Bank Capacity Needs



In the fall of 2021, CAFB surveyed members to assess their needs coming out of the COVID-19 crisis. COVID-19 put an enormous strain on the emergency food infrastructure, and revealed significant capacity constraints:



The statewide need for one-time improvements for food banks and their local agencies — from warehouse expansions to refrigerated trucks — is approximately **\$653 million**.

Funding for SB 1383 Implementation



The 2022-23 State Budget included **\$180 million for organic waste infrastructure:**

- We need **more specific language** so that both the state and local governments know they can partner with local food banks to implement this strategy.

Becky Silva

Director of Government Relations
California Association of Food Banks
becky@cafoodbanks.org